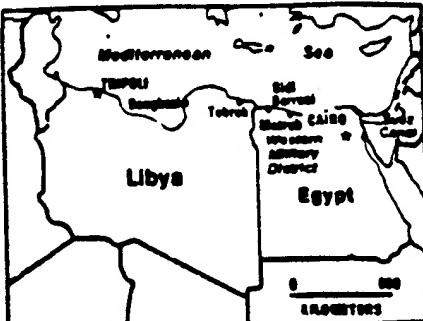


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## Middle East

### EGYPT-LIBYA

Egyptian-Libyan negotiations on a disengagement of forces are continuing, but are not making much progress. The talks hit a snag early this week over prisoner exchanges, and the Egyptians are not willing to move on to mutual withdrawals until the prisoner issue is settled.



the seriousness with which the Egyptians regard their quarrel with Libya.

As discussed by Egyptian military officials, current planning for new attacks against Libya include a ground force invasion aimed at capturing Tobruk and limited strikes by special forces groups against Tripoli and Benghazi. All forces would be withdrawn within three weeks. The purpose of the action would be to spark an internal uprising against Libyan President Qadhafi.

The Libyans are also augmenting their force in the border area and conducting training exercises, but their armed forces are not as large as Egypt's and their augmentations are commensurately smaller.

The July military action, however, was not popular in Egypt either with the public or the military, and it is possible that Egyptian President Sadat is buying time with the negotiations to weigh the political and military consequences of renewed hostilities.

In the interim, the Egyptian military buildup in the border area is becoming more formidable. Since the fighting ended on 23 July, the Egyptians have moved an armored division and all SA-6 battalions out of the Suez Canal area to the western command. The transfer of the SA-6 battalions significantly weakens Egyptian forces facing the Israelis and underscores

#### STATUS OF FORCES

Libyan Forces in the Eastern Border Area		Egyptian Forces in the Western Military District	
	19 July	31 August	19 July
Combat Troops	11,000-12,000	18,000	20,000-25,000
Tanks	223-250	250	250-265
Air Defense	4 SA-6 battalions	4-6 SA-6 battalions	3 SA-6 battalions
	7 SA-2/3 battalions	8 SA-2/3 battalions	9 SA-2/3 battalions
1 Crocodile Battery		1-2 Crocodile Batteries	10 SA-2/3 battalions
Aircraft <sup>a</sup>	15 Mirage 5s	15 Mirage 5s	30-32 MiG-21s
	50 assembled	60 assembled	35-49 MiG-21s
	MIG-23s	MIG-23s	7-8 Mirage 3/5s

<sup>a</sup> Both Egypt and Libya augmented their air power along the border during the fighting, but withdrew some aircraft after the cease-fire.

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